

Happy Holidays

# WEST ST. PAUL



**BEHIND  
THE BADGE**  
LEARN ABOUT THE  
REAL PEOPLE KEEPING  
WEST ST. PAUL SAFE.  
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Winter 2017



# city directory

## CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL

Municipal Center  
1616 Humboldt Avenue  
West St. Paul, MN 55118

Office Hours M-F - 8:00am - 4:30pm

## MAYOR

Jenny Halverson [651-208-7649](tel:651-208-7649)  
[jhalverson@wspmn.gov](mailto:jhalverson@wspmn.gov)

## CITY COUNCIL

Ward I | Bob Pace [612-308-9659](tel:612-308-9659)  
[bpace@wspmn.gov](mailto:bpace@wspmn.gov)

Ward I | Dick Vitelli [651-460-0419](tel:651-460-0419)  
[dvitelli@wspmn.gov](mailto:dvitelli@wspmn.gov)

Ward II | Anthony Fernandez [612-978-4461](tel:612-978-4461)  
[afernandez@wspmn.gov](mailto:afernandez@wspmn.gov)

Ward II | Ed Iago [651-731-4447](tel:651-731-4447)  
[eiago@wspmn.gov](mailto:eiago@wspmn.gov)

Ward III | David Napier [612-562-9773](tel:612-562-9773)  
[dnapier@wspmn.gov](mailto:dnapier@wspmn.gov)

Ward III | John Bellows [651-238-4444](tel:651-238-4444)  
[jbellow@wspmn.gov](mailto:jbellow@wspmn.gov)

## CITY MANAGER

Ryan Schroeder [651-552-4101](tel:651-552-4101)  
[rschroeder@wspmn.gov](mailto:rschroeder@wspmn.gov)

## PHONE

Main Line - Reception [651-552-4100](tel:651-552-4100)

Emergency Police or Fire [911](tel:911)

Non-Emergency Police [651-322-2323](tel:651-322-2323)

South Metro Fire Dept. [651-552-4176](tel:651-552-4176)

Parks & Recreation [651-552-4150](tel:651-552-4150)

Building Inspections [651-552-4116](tel:651-552-4116)

Code Enforcement [651-552-4114](tel:651-552-4114)

Police Admin/Records [651-552-4200](tel:651-552-4200)

Elections [651-552-4102](tel:651-552-4102)

Golf Course (seasonal) [651-457-6064](tel:651-457-6064)

Ice Arena (seasonal) [651-552-4155](tel:651-552-4155)

Sports Dome/WSPRAC [651-552-4158](tel:651-552-4158)

Street Maintenance/Trees [651-552-4160](tel:651-552-4160)

Street Projects [651-552-4131](tel:651-552-4131)

Inflow & Infiltration [651-552-4137](tel:651-552-4137)

Business Licensing [651-552-4203](tel:651-552-4203)

## WEB

[www.wspmn.gov](http://www.wspmn.gov)

 [facebook.com/CityofWSP](https://facebook.com/CityofWSP)  
[facebook.com/WestStPaulPD](https://facebook.com/WestStPaulPD)

 [@WestStPaul](https://twitter.com/WestStPaul)

# from the MAYOR'S DESK



## John V. Hoene Ice Arena

As winter approaches, our thoughts turn from hikes in the fallen leaves to races down sledding hills and skating with friends. We are fortunate to have the hill at Marthaler, the trails through our parks, and many outdoor neighborhood rinks to enjoy. We are also proud to have an updated and renovated indoor Ice Arena here in West St. Paul.

Our indoor arena is a classic rink named after John V. Hoene (1914-2001), who devoted his adult life to youth hockey and spearheaded the effort to build an ice arena in the City in the early 1970s. Being a hockey player and coach himself until age 72, he was a lifelong promoter of youth hockey and other sports. He was an incorporator of the Youth Hockey Association of West St. Paul in 1965 and won the West St. Paul 1970 "Man of the Year" award in recognition of his efforts for our youth. John was the original inductee in the West St. Paul Hockey Hall of Fame and he provided the foundation for the West St. Paul arena to exist. The arena bearing his name was originally constructed in 1971 and underwent renovation in 1997 that added the front lobby, concessions, bathrooms, offices and locker rooms that were not included in the original structure.

The John V. Hoene arena has been heavily used for many years, but as it aged, the facility fell into desperate need of repair. Recognizing that the facility may face closure, West St. Paul approached our neighbors and partners who also rely

on use of the arena and presented them with our situation. We also requested help in acquiring funds from our late State Senator Jim Metzen. Sen. Metzen was able to help us secure one of only 11 Mighty Ducks grants awarded in 2014, providing us with \$200,000 toward keeping our arena viable. An important example of cooperative efforts that provide mutual benefits for our shared communities, Mendota Heights, Independent School District 197, and the City of West St. Paul agreed to equally participate in funding the remaining cost of needed repairs and updates.

Our renovated arena continues to serve as home ice for our Henry Sibley Girls & Boys Hockey teams as well as for our youth programs with Sibley Area Youth Hockey Association. The mechanical upgrades now allow for year-round use

of the arena. We encourage our residents to visit during Open Skating and Open Hockey periods. Those days and time are listed within the Residents portion of our website under "Parks & Recreation".

As families gather around the holidays, please remember to make use of all of the amenities we are proud to have here in West St. Paul. Whether it's skating, sledding or pulling on your boots and walking together through our parks, there are many memories waiting to be made during this special time of year.

Enjoy your time with family and friends.

**Happy Holidays!**  
**Jenny Halverson**



Some historical information courtesy of Vintage MN Hockey



# River to River Greenway Takes a Step Forward



In November, the City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the City to work toward completion of a Greenway Trail corridor between Livingston and Oakdale Avenues north of Wentworth Avenue. The City Council has been discussing the future of the Golf Course for a number of years. If this project is ultimately completed, it would result in repurposing the Thompson Oaks Golf Course.

You have likely heard of a number of publicly owned golf courses being converted to other uses throughout the Metro area over the past several years. The golf industry financial metrics have been changing which has caused Public Boards to consider other options for these enterprises.

## Enter the River-to-River Greenway

As the City has been considering options for the Thompson Oaks Golf Course, Dakota County has been building sections of the River-to-River Greenway trail and is now poised to connect this portion of the trail in West St. Paul. If built, this trailway would connect to Thompson Park and then into South St. Paul and to the Mississippi River. The trail would be built and maintained by the County.

The trailway plan would provide an opportunity for the public to gain access to the lake adjacent to Wentworth Avenue as it is proposed that the trailway be constructed on both the north and south sides of the lake. The trailway is also anticipated to include a grade separated crossing of Robert Street if completed in accordance with the adopted City Council direction. This direction permits Dakota County to construct the trailway as well as providing State Funding the City has been allocated in order to accomplish this project.

## Environmental Study

The first step is an in-depth environmental study of the golf course property. We are aware that there are some poor soils and buried construction debris under the fairways. The extent of these contaminants is not entirely known. Braun Intertec conducted a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) of the Thompson Oaks Golf Course in 2013 and a limited scope Phase II ESA in 2014. The City is contracting with Braun to further evaluate the extent of debris and impacts of historical use of pesticides, herbicides and fungicides. This work, conducted during the balance of this year, will include 16 test pits to an anticipated depth of 12 feet below the surface. There will also be nine hand auger borings on three greens, three tee boxes and three low spots to evaluate chemical impacts upon the property. The findings of this study will help determine the feasibility of development on the land including options for the Greenway corridor.



# Improving Accessibility in West St. Paul: ADA Transition Plan

This year the City of West St. Paul completed a project in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to identify accessibility needs on sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities. This past summer we conducted an overall review of City procedures and policies, and took a field inventory of each segment of sidewalk within the community. The resulting data enabled us to draft an “ADA Transition Plan”, which documents these policies and procedures, and sets goals and priorities for improving accessibility. The City of West St. Paul is seeking input from the public on its draft plan to support accessibility for people using its facilities. We invite you to review the draft version of the plan, posted on the Engineering section of [www.wspmn.gov](http://www.wspmn.gov). The purpose of this notice is to introduce the ADA Transition Plan to the public and inform those that work in “priority areas” related to accessibility about the City’s work thus far. Any comments that you provide may be incorporated into the final version of the plan and help the City of West St. Paul to identify key areas for improvement including curb ramps, sidewalks and traffic signals.

For more information please contact Ross Beckwith, City Engineer, at 651-552-4130 or [rbeckwith@wspmn.gov](mailto:rbeckwith@wspmn.gov).

This serves as the official public notice for the plan’s publication. Any comments that you provide may be incorporated into the final version of the plan, and help set goals and priorities. In addition to the web version, a copy of the plan is available for review at the West St. Paul Municipal Center.



# New West St. Paul ACT on Alzheimer’s group

Living Longer & Stronger in West St. Paul has launched a new group, West St. Paul ACT on Alzheimer’s. The group is working to have West St. Paul become one of the 40+ cities in Minnesota identified as dementia friendly. West St. Paul ACT on Alzheimer’s wants to raise awareness of dementia in the community and offer resources and training about dementia to local businesses. The group is promoting Dementia Friends Minnesota, which has an hour long basic training on dementia that focuses on how you can be a supporter in your community.

West St. Paul ACT on Alzheimer’s also wants to offer tailored, shorter educational efforts for employers and their employees. West St. Paul ACT on Alzheimer’s is now collecting short stories/comments about your connection to dementia in its facebook group. Please share how dementia has impacted your life or those you love at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/194519117758701/>

Living Longer & Stronger in West St. Paul is a nonprofit community coalition. For more information on West St. Paul ACT on Alzheimer’s group, resources or if you are interested in training for your organization or employees, please contact Jess Luce, 651-554-6104, [jess.luce@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:jess.luce@co.dakota.mn.us).



Recycle your holiday lights and electrical or appliance cords from November 15th through the end of January 2018 courtesy of ProAct. Lights attached to wreaths, holly or trees must be removed first. Bring your string lights and cords to City Hall and look for the collection barrel in the front entryway. Holiday lights are also accepted year round at The Recycling Zone in Eagan. Cord adapters, battery packs, plastic rope lights and CFL lights are not accepted. For more info visit [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us). Search *Recycling Zone*.

Partially funded by Dakota County and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.





## HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FROM SOUTH METRO FIRE DEPARTMENT

The holidays are upon us - a time to enjoy the great food, beautiful decorations and festive music of the season. There's a chill in the air and eager anticipation for the first substantial snowfall.

At the same time, the holidays and winter cold combine to form a particularly dangerous time for fires. As you prepare to celebrate with family and friends, now is also the time to protect your home and family from the increased risk of fire this time of year. Like many people, enjoying good food is at the top of our list, but did you know that many home fires start in the kitchen? Cooking fires are also the number one cause of fire-related injuries.

### Holiday Cooking Tips:

1. Stay in the kitchen when cooking, especially when frying, grilling or using an open flame. Keep a large lid or cooking sheet handy to smother any flare ups.
2. Never deep fry turkeys inside your home, garage or on a deck.
3. Avoid loose or dangling sleeves while cooking. They can easily make contact with hot surfaces and catch on fire.
4. Clean cooking surfaces regularly to prevent grease buildup.
5. Check the kitchen before going to bed or leaving your home to ensure all stoves, ovens and small appliances are turned off.
6. Create a kid and pet free zone around your stove and oven.
7. Keep anything that can catch fire away from cooking areas or any other appliances that generate heat.

Most importantly, your home should have working smoke alarms on each floor, outside of sleeping areas and inside each bedroom. Test smoke alarms monthly. Smoke detectors are good for 10 years. If your smoke detectors are older than 10 years they should be replaced.

The holidays are about family and friends and South Metro Fire wishes you and yours a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Stay Safe!

### Fast Facts:

- Two out of every five home decoration fires are started by candles.
- Nearly half of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

### Holiday Decorating:

1. Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands that can be connected together.
2. Avoid overloading electrical outlets.
3. Use clips, not nails, to prevent damage when hanging lights.
4. Use a sturdy tree stand to prevent it from tipping over.
5. Use decorations that are flame-resistant or flame-retardant and place decorations at least 3 feet away from fireplaces, portable heaters, radiators, heat vents and candles.
6. Candles should be blown out when unattended. They should be placed on a stable surface preferably on a glass or ceramic plate. It's also important to keep burning candles away from combustible materials.

## 2018 PUBLIC BUDGET MEETING

Each year the City of West St. Paul prepares an annual budget for the City Council to authorize and approve. This year's meeting will occur during the final Council Meeting of the year.

**December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Council Meeting | 6:30 pm**  
**West St. Paul City Hall (1616 Humboldt Ave)**

The City of West St. Paul's mission statement is:

*To Promote and preserve a community of excellence by the ethical, responsible, efficient and innovative provision of services.*

### WHERE DOES THE CITY'S BUDGET ACTUALLY GO?



### IN ADDITION TO ANNUAL DEPARTMENTAL COSTS, THE 2018 BUDGET INCLUDES:

**Repairs to City Hall:** Roof repairs, parking lot, garage doors and lighting.  
**Marthaler Park:** Park redesign, tennis court resurfacing and trail improvements.

To keep the levy low, staff actively pursues ways to keep costs down.

In 2018 grant dollars will pay for 2 police officers. West St. Paul also shares volunteer and recycling programs with several other cities to cut costs dramatically.

## PLOWING IS SNOW JOKE

Here are a few reminders for property owners:

- While snowplows are big, orange and have flashing lights, they often work in poor visibility and darkness. Just because you can see them doesn't mean they can see you.
- For safety, please keep back 75 feet from snowplows. They may have to back up through intersections or make other maneuvers that are not expected by motorists. A loaded snow plow weighs about 26 tons, so please give them room to work!
- Keeping the area around your mailbox clear of snow will prevent damage to the mailbox and allow the postal worker to deliver your mail.
- Please don't push snow from your property onto streets or trails. This can be a hazard to the traveling public, require areas to be plowed twice and is actually a misdemeanor, carrying a fine up to \$1,000. Not a fun bill to pay right after the holidays!
- Keep trash containers out of the street and on your boulevard or driveway.
- During a snow emergency it is critical that vehicles be off the



streets. Vehicles illegally parked can be ticketed and towed.

- Snowplowing is an expensive operation performed in less than desirable conditions. By doing your part, staff can plow routes faster and more efficiently, keeping costs down.

**SIGN UP FOR SNOW EMERGENCY  
TEXT OR EMAIL ALERTS AT  
WWW.WSPMN.GOV!**



YOUTH TRIPS



## Drkula’s Bowling and Movie

Start your winter break off with fun, interactive bowling at Drkula’s Bowl in Inver Grove Heights. In the afternoon we will enjoy the movie Ferdinand at the AMC Theater. Please bring a bag lunch and beverage. Concessions will be available at theater.

**1st – 6th graders**  
**Wednesday, December 27th**  
**Pick up: 9:30 am / Drop off: 4:15 pm at WSP City Hall**  
**\$25 per child**  
**Registration Deadline: Wednesday, December 22nd, 2017**



## Snow tubing at Wild Mountain

Come out to Wild Mountain in Taylor Falls, where we will spend the day sliding down the chutes and warming up near the bonfire. Please bring a bag lunch and beverage. Concession stand is available on site. Remember to bring warm clothes, boots, hat and gloves!

**1st – 6th graders**  
**Thursday, December 28th**  
**Pick up: 9:15 am / Drop off: 3:45 pm at WSP City Hall**  
**\$25 per child**  
**Registration Deadline: Wednesday, December 22nd, 2017**



## Royal Ball

Your little princess and prince have been invited to our 3rd annual Royal Ball. We will have crafts, games, meet and greet with real princesses and princes, DJ, refreshments and lots of dancing. Come in your favorite royal costume. Register early, space is limited!

**4th Grade and under**  
**Sunday, February 11th | 3pm – 5pm**  
**Registration Deadline: Friday, February 2nd**  
**Concord Exchange Building | 200 Concord Exchange N., South St. Paul**

## Secret Holiday Shop



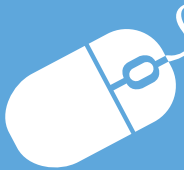
Children of all ages, join us for our 4th Annual Secret Holiday Shop where parents aren’t allowed, while you shop for your family and friends. All gifts will be wrapped and labeled after shopping. Tickets can be purchased for \$0.50 each and all gifts range from \$0.50 – \$12.00. Gifts include items such as jewelry, coffee mugs, home accents, children’s toys and much more.

NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

**Saturday, December 9th**  
**9am – 11am**

**Thompson Park - Dakota Lodge**  
**1200 Stassen Lane**  
**West St. Paul**

**Tickets are 50¢ each**  
**Please bring cash or check**



Register online at  
[www.wspmn.gov](http://www.wspmn.gov)

## Outdoor Ice Skating Lessons

This is a joint program with the West St. Paul and Mendota Heights Parks and Recreation Departments. Join us outside for our 5 week program at Friendly Hills Rink in Mendota Heights to improve your skating skills while having fun. Class size is limited.

**Saturdays, January 6th – February 3rd Friendly Hills Rink**  
**(716 Navajo Lane, Mendota Heights) - \$35 for 5 weeks**  
**Registration Deadline: Friday, December 27th**

**SMALLS AND TALLS SESSION 1:** Ages: 3-5 years 9:30am – 10:00am  
All children are required to have an adult participate with them. Learn tips to teach your child.  
**BEGINNERS SESSION 1:** Ages: 5 and up 10:05am to 10:35 am  
For skaters with no previous experience. Learn basic skills.  
**INTERMEDIATE & FUNSTYLE-FREESTYLE:** Ages 6+ 10:40am – 11:10 am  
Our highest level offered with some extra fun freestyle moves!  
**SMALLS AND TALLS SESSION 2:** Ages: 3-5 years 11:15am – 11:45am  
All children are required to have an adult participate with them. Learn tips to teach your child.  
**BEGINNERS SESSION 2:** Ages: 5 and up 11:50am – 12:00pm  
For skaters with no previous experience. Learn basic skills.

## Hockey w/ a Cop & Firefighter

Join us out at Harmon Park ice rink for a fun filled game of outdoor hockey with members of the Police and Fire Department. Participants can warm up after the game in the warming house with hot cocoa and cookies. All participants must bring their own hockey equipment, skates and hockey stick.

**3rd – 6th graders: 10:00pm– 11:00am**  
**Saturday, January 20th**  
**Harmon Park Ice Rink | 230 Bernard St. West**

FREE EVENT! | NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

## Trolls Musical Theater Camp

Can’t Stop the Feeling! Team up with your friends and let the adventure begin! We will learn music and choreography from Trolls and put together a show that we will perform on the last day of class. Everyone will learn how to put together a professional show from start to finish. Learn how to properly speak lines, block a scene, and develop a character.

**5 years old – 10 years old**  
**December 27th – 29th | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**Harmon Park Neighborhood Center**  
**230 Bernard St. West**  
**\$75/ Child | Register by: Wednesday, December 20th**

## Scholarships

Financial aid is available to those who qualify. Scholarships are granted on a first-come, first-serve basis according to Minnesota’s free and reduced lunch price eligibility guidelines. If eligible, funding is awarding at 50% for up 2 programs per child, per year. Call our office at 651-552-4150 for details on guidelines and required back-up documentation.

## Outdoor Rinks and Warming House Hours

December 16 – February 19 (weather permitting)  
CLOSED DECEMBER 25  
The following warming houses will be staffed: Dodd, Harmon, Haskell, Orme and Weschcke

**Regular Hours**  
12/16 – 12/20, 1/2-1/14, 1/16 – 1/24, 1/29 – 2/18  
Monday – Friday 4:00 – 9:00pm  
Saturday & Sunday 12:00 – 9:00pm

**School Release Day Hours**  
12/21 – 1/1, 1/15, 2/19 (12:00pm – 9:00pm)

**Special Hours:**  
12/24, 12/31, 2/4 (12:00pm – 4:00pm)

## Ice Arena Skating Schedule

Open Public Skating Schedule:  
**Sunday 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm**  
**Monday 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**  
**Tuesday 9:30 am - 11:00 am**  
**Wednesday 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**  
**Thursday 9:30 am - 11:00 am**  
**Friday 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**  
Cost: \$3 per person | Open public skating is open to all ages.

Open Hockey Schedule:  
**Tuesday 11:30 am - 1:30 pm**  
**Thursday 11:30 - 1:30 pm**  
**Saturday 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm**  
Cost: \$5.00 per person | Open hockey is open to ages 15+.

\*\* Please note that all schedules are subject to change without notice, please call the arena for updates (651)552-4155.

Rentals: The arena is available for rentals (hockey, skating parties, birthday parties, etc.) Please call the arena for availability and pricing.

## WSP Regional Athletic Center (Dome)

**Open Walking & Jogging**  
Come inside the West St. Paul Dome where the weather is always nice and comfortable. Open walking and jogging time is open to all. So grab those little ones, the stroller and come on in. \*\*Please note that all schedules are subject to change without notice.  
**Monday – Friday 7:00am – 4:00pm Cost: Free**  
Note: Please sign in at the front desk

**Open Dome**  
Open Dome time is an awesome time to let off some steam while having some fun. Our soccer and lacrosse goals are out and ready for you. Come play, practice and even make some new friends. Open Dome time is open to all ages. All participants are required to wear tennis shoes. \*\*Please note that schedules are subject to change without notice. No pre-registration is required.  
**Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Cost: \$5 per person**





# BEHIND the BADGE

## Sergeant Brent Nagel

My name is Brent Nagel and I have been with the West St. Paul Police Department for 24 years. I grew up right next door in Mendota Heights. I have two wonderful children; one son and one daughter. I have been coaching youth hockey, both boys and girls, for over 12 years in our community and really enjoy this activity. I played hockey in my youth, through high school and college.

Something interesting about me that many don't know is that after College I spent a majority of the year backpacking around Europe by myself. I was able to see many interesting historical places and met many great people. It was a wonderful experience.

I was drawn to law enforcement because my father was a police officer and I guess it runs in my family. I always thought my father's job was interesting and did not limit me to office work. I enjoy being out and about in our community.

I love being a police officer because you never know what the day will bring and every day is different. For example: One call required that we bring a 15 year old female into custody. In the process of preparing her for detention her emotions got the best of her. While attempting to bring her under control with out injuring her, she managed to cut my face with her ring and give me a black eye. One of our investigators wanted to take a photo. When I asked why, she said "To file assault charges." I looked at her and said "Do you think I'm going to go testify that a 15 year old girl beat me up? You're crazy. Put your camera away." I always enjoy those unique calls that you can talk about for years to come.

## Captain John Mohs

My name is John Mohs and I have been with the South Metro Fire Department for 10 years. I have over 30 years of service as a fire fighter. I grew up nearby in South St. Paul, MN and have 4 children; Amanda, Jake, Jack and Ben.

On my days off, I enjoy a variety of sports but have a passion for weight lifting and basketball. I also enjoy traveling and have experienced some amazing travel destinations which unfortunately are not as safe to visit in today's world. I also enjoy motorcycling with my old fire fighter friends. But my favorite use of my time is spending it with my wife and children doing a variety of activities.

One thing people might not know about me is that I love the theatre.

I became a firefighter because I wanted a career that I would enjoy and get a sense of fulfillment. I feel like the luckiest man around to have a job that I look forward to going to work every shift. I love the diversity of the job in the sense that not one call is exactly the same and it never becomes monotonous. I also find satisfaction in helping others who are sometimes in the worst moments of their lives. I also appreciate the life-long friendships that I have developed with my co-workers who are still working or retired.

My most memorable call... This is probably the hardest question of them all because out of the thousands of calls I have been on in my career some of the memorable calls didn't necessarily end favorably. There was one call that I still laugh when I think about it. Back when I was a South St. Paul firefighter my partner and I responded to a report of an elderly woman having chest pains and possible heart attack and it was early morning around 4:00 a.m. We were woken from our beds and responded. When we entered the home we found the lady sitting on her couch and she started to explain her chest pain to us when she looked up at me and informed me that my zipper was down, I said thanks and while zipping up my zipper my rubber medical glove got stuck and I started pulling on it eventually the glove tore and my finger popped out and part of my rubber glove was hanging out of my zipper. We all started laughing so hard and she thanked me for making her laugh.

Personally I am very proud to be part of an organization that is the best of the best. I would like the public to know that they are protected by a progressive Fire Department. We continue to maintain a level of training and professionalism to guarantee that if they need help they have the comfort knowing that true professionals will be responding to help them. I would also like the public to know that like any good sports team, it starts with good leadership and a good head coach. SMFD is a team that works together to win over and mitigate all emergencies from fires to haz mat to medical emergencies and is fortunate to have great leadership with a Chief that cares about the public but also about his firefighters.





# To the Last Man

West St. Paul is proud to have a National Guard Armory here in the City. Currently, the unit attached to our Armory is the Army National Guard Alpha Company, Second Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment (ACO 2-135). They have about 150 men and women who serve our Country in the Infantry under the Command of Captain Zach Duckworth. The Second Battalion is headquartered in Mankato. About half of the Infantry unit are college age young men and women who are going to school and the other half are working, with a number of them raising families.

I had the opportunity to meet with Sergeant Adam Knoepke and Sergeant Larkin Adey, two of three full-time staff at the WSP Armory. Sergeant Adam Knoepke's role is to act as Commander in the Commander's absence. He also oversees the day to day operations of the unit and helps to plan and shape future training for the guard members. Sergeant Larkin Adey is in charge of developing, planning and implementing training. The third full-time staff member, Sergeant Swartzenberg, is in charge of logistics. Here is some of what I learned.

**A Proud History**  
The lineage of the ACO 2-135 dates back to the Civil War and was part of the First Minnesota Unit that was involved in several battles during the Civil War including the battle of Gettysburg. The Unit Motto "To the Last Man" came from that Battle. The Red Bull 34th Infantry Division of First Minnesota also served in World War II. They were stationed in Italy.

**War on Terror**  
More recently, the ACO 2-135 Infantry unit deployed several times in support of the Global War on Terror. After the 9/11 attacks, they were sent to MSP International Airport where they remained for 7 months. They fought in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, Operation Jump Start and Operation New Dawn. Recently the Battalion sent a contingent to Egypt to guard the border between Egypt and Israel as part of a stabilization peacekeeping mission. They are typically deployed for 9 to 12 months but have been deployed for as long as 18 months.

When the unit deploys, they do not deploy as advisors; they serve in a conventional infantry role. Over the past ten years, the number of active duty military has been going through sequestration, which essentially means they have been dropping in numbers of members and in equipment. That has caused the National Guard to be used more and more often and has raised the expectations for future deployment.


**New Times – New security Protocols**  
Historically, Armories were open to the public and served as a gathering place, jump off point and community center. It wasn't that many years ago when the West St. Paul Armory could be rented for wedding dances. Times have changed. For the security of the unit, they had to limit access and now all armories have security protocols in place. The Armory is still a gathering spot for the unit and jump-off spot for deployment and training.

**Readiness**  
Training for the National Guard Infantry is typically two days per month and two to three weeks over the summer. Each training weekend has to be well-planned and organized to include the type of training, location, supplies, logistics, transportation and development of resources to make it successful and rigorous. They typically train at Camp Ripley, near Brainerd, MN, Camp Dodge in Iowa and Fort McCoy in Wisconsin, when not in West St. Paul.

They do a lot of training in the field requiring them to live outdoors in all sorts of weather conditions. Being wet and cold is part of the training. They have cooks attached to the unit but also often eat MRE's (prepackaged 'Meals Ready to Eat' that can be several years old).

The training schedule is being enhanced this coming year to meet new requirements of the National Guard. With this increased readiness requirement, it has become more demanding on each individual guard member. The time spent training and deployed really takes a toll on each of their families. Please thank them when you see them and keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Prepared by Sherrie Le, Chair of the West St. Paul Yellow Ribbon Network and Assistant City Manager for the City of West St. Paul.



















**Beyond the Yellow Ribbon West St. Paul**

The WSP Yellow Ribbon Network is a community-based organization that assists service members, their families and veterans of all ages. We help connect those in need with resources and referral and provide direct assistance to those in need where other resources are not able to assist.

If you are a veteran or service member who lives in WSP or is connected to our Armory, please reach out if you need assistance. Contact Sherrie Le at 651-552-4108 or sle@wspmn.gov.

To volunteer with the WSP Yellow Ribbon, please contact Melissa Pond at melissa.pond@co.dakota.mn.us

If you are a business interested in getting involved, please contact Ed Iago at eiago@wspmn.gov or Sherrie Le at sle@wspmn.gov.

55 Night-to-Unite block parties were hosted in 2017 	4 miles of fire hose were pressure tested in 2017 	289 volunteers served the community in a variety of capacities in 2017 	\$25M in new Permit Market Valuation in Q1-Q3 2017. An increase of \$10 million from 2016
84k pages of paper documents scanned into digital records 	3.3 miles of City sanitary sewer main were lined in 2017 to combat I/I 	588 building permits issued in Q1-Q3 of 2017 	12k facebook and twitter followers 
32 sworn West St. Paul Police Officers 	WEST ST. PAUL in 2017 by the NUMBERS		2.6M pounds of asphalt were laid by Public Works to repair streets 
6,100 fire and EMS calls during the year 	426 licensed rental properties in use 	#1 South Metro is tied with St. Paul as the busiest fire department in the Metro area per capita 	50+ pounds of protective gear are worn by each South Metro Fire Fighter
\$20M in sales and property tax generated by businesses on Robert Street in West St. Paul 	55 child car seats professionally installed in parent vehicles. 	1000 buildings Inspected by fire crews in 2017 	3 weeks it took to sweep all the City streets this fall 

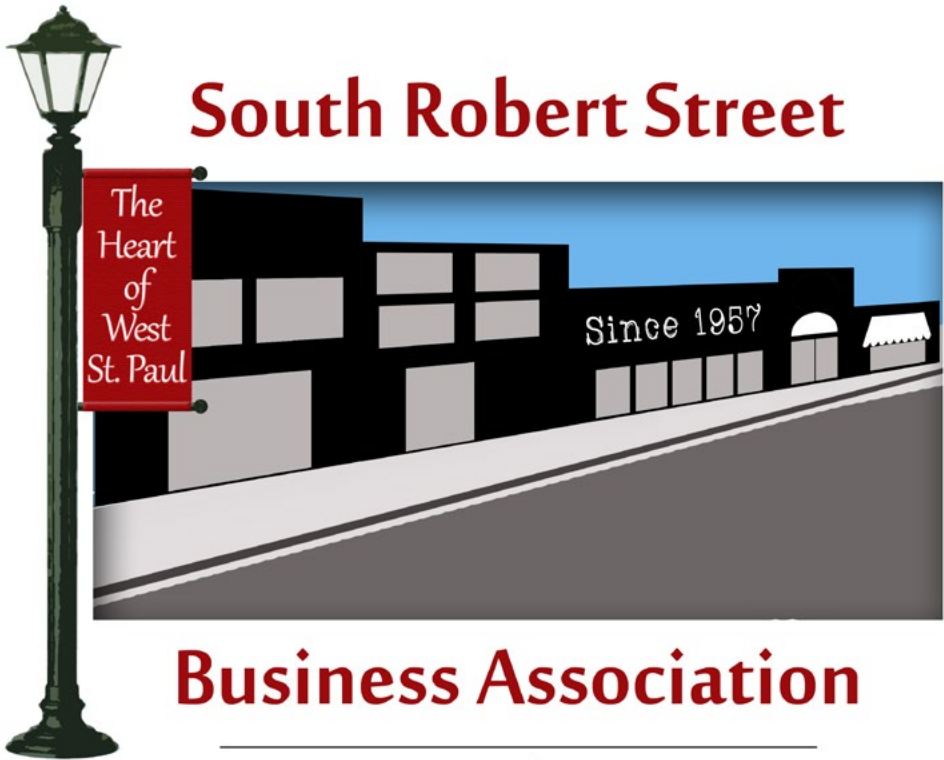


# the LOOP

WEST ST. PAUL CIRCULATOR BUS

Thanks to all sponsors of the LOOP in West St. Paul. This service continues to live on, funded solely by donations from the following sponsors.

the LOOP has a new route and schedule! View or download at [www.darts1.org/transportation](http://www.darts1.org/transportation).



## South Robert Street

## Business Association

South Robert Street Business Association is run by local businesses including: Cardinal Corner, Plaza TV & Appliance, Klecatsky & Sons West Chapel, A Precious Petal's Florist, ABC Rental, R & B Liquor, Pyrotechnic Display Inc, CBL Floors, The Pizza Shop, Dakota County Library, Kodiak Inc, Button Works, WSP Chiropractics, Image Builders, Camelot Cleaners, Applebee's, Fast Signs, Steve Stremski State Farm Ins, Septic Pumps, Darts, Anchor Bank, Pace's Tire and Service Center, YMCA, Jerry's Impressions, Big Car Wash, Tom Stremski State Farm Ins, Culvers, Anderson Vacuum, 5-8 Grill & Tap, Town Square TV, River Source Reality, The Guild, UPS Store, Drake Bank, Tappers Bar, Associated Bank & others!

### OTHER SPONSORS:



## Signal Hills Shopping Center



## 2018 Pet Licenses Available Now

In WSP, all cats and dogs over the age of 4 months are required have a city pet license.

To obtain a WSP pet license for your dog or cat, come to the Municipal Center located at 1616 Humboldt Ave., during our normal business hours, 8am-4:30pm, Monday – Friday. Bring your pet's current paper Rabies Vaccination Certificate from a doctor qualified to practice veterinary medicine. The pet license fee will be \$15 for spayed or neutered pets and \$20 for non-fixed pets. Please remember that the pet license is a calendar year license so your pet will need a new one every year!

## Under the Snow

While it may soon be white outside, it is important to remember all of the plants and ponds that lie below the snow. In order to protect our natural resources, snow and ice should be removed with a shovel, snow blower or ice scraper, and not with the use of salt. Once salt is placed, it is not easily removed from soils and pavement. It damages trees and vegetation and destroys the soil structure. This reduces the soil's ability to retain water, which increases the potential for erosion. A high level of salt in the water is also toxic to fish. Should it be your last resort, check the thermometer first as salt tends to stop doing its job when temperatures are below 15 degrees Fahrenheit.



## Neighbors, Inc. Holiday Giving Program

Neighbors' Holiday Program offers three separate ways to adopt or donate to families in need during the winter holiday season.

### GIFTS FOR KIDS

In this program, a donor family or group anonymously provides toys and clothing directly to the children in the adopted family.

Donors are given a "wish list" that provides the first names, ages, genders, and clothing sizes of the children in the family. The family lists 4-5 clothing items and 4-5 suggestions for toys, games, and other gifts. We ask that adopters spend \$100 per child.

Please wrap the gifts and deliver to Neighbors by Dec. 13. Neighbors is located at 222 Grand Avenue West | South St. Paul, MN 55075

### ADOPT-A-SENIOR

In this program, a donor family or group anonymously provides gifts to seniors

living in northern Dakota County. Donors are given the first names, ages, gender, and clothing sizes of the senior and a "wish" list, which includes 4-5 clothing items and 4-5 suggestions for gifts.

We ask that you spend \$100 per senior, and the wrapped gifts be delivered to Neighbors by Dec. 13.

### LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

More families apply for this program than we have adopters to serve them. Neighbors serves all children who aren't adopted by making gift packages with donated toys and clothing.

Donating unwrapped, new gifts to our holiday program can be a great way to participate in the program as an alternative option to adopting.

For further information go to [www.neighborsmn.org](http://www.neighborsmn.org), call our holiday line at 651-306-2152 or email [holiday@neighborsmn.org](mailto:holiday@neighborsmn.org).



Drop off new, unwrapped gifts M-F from 8am-4:30pm now through December 20th.

1616 Humboldt Ave  
West St. Paul, MN 55118

## DONATE AT WEST ST. PAUL CITY HALL!

## Save the Food!

Food waste is the largest component of our trash in Minnesota at 18 percent. Throughout the year you will see tips on shopping, storing and cooking food. We are partnering with the SaveTheFood.com campaign created by the Ad Council and National Resources Defense Council. Get ready to get to know your fridge a little better!

Overall, from farm to fork, we throw away 40 percent of the food we grow. Residents alone make up about 25 percent of the food tossed that was meant to be eaten. That's like buying four bags of groceries, dropping one in the grocery store parking lot and not picking it up. There are many great online resources and phone apps for how to use up your leftovers. From soups to shepherd's pie, get inspired at BigOven.com or Allrecipes.com to use up ingredients.

Partially funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Dakota County.





City of West St. Paul  
1616 Humboldt Ave  
West St. Paul, MN 55118

# WINTER FUN FEST!



**February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**2-5pm**  
**Harmon Park**  
(230 Bernard St. W)

Weather cooperating, we'll have:  
DJ, Food and Drinks, Heated Tent, Fire Pits, Sled Dogs,  
Fireworks, Raffle Prizes, and much more!

Don't miss the third installment  
of this hit event sponsored by  
the South Robert Street Business  
Association and the City of West  
St. Paul!

